

## SHIFTS IN PERSONS AND NUMBERS

Person	Singular	Plural
First person (the person or persons speaking)	I, me	we, us
Second person (the person or persons being spoken to)	you	you
Third person (the person or persons being spoken about)	he, she, it him, her everybody, everyone	they, them

**When you use pronouns, do not shift between persons or between plural and singular.**

⊗ *It is important for a person to be sure before you get married.* (The writer shifts from third person to second person.)

⊙ *It is important for a person to be sure before he or she gets married.*

⊗ *We are happy with our lives in the town. You can get anything you need there.* (The writer shifts from first person to second person)

⊙ *We are happy with our lives in the town. We can get anything we need there.*

⊗ *A hunter must spend his time hunting. They will use their bare hands to catch animals if they must.* (The writer shifts from third person singular to third person plural.)

⊙ *Hunters must spend their time hunting. They will use their bare hands to catch animals if they must.*

⊗ *Everybody should learn a lesson from what they read in the story because you may be in the same situation some day.* (The writer shifts from third person plural to second person singular.)

⊙ *Students should learn a lesson from what they read in the story because they may be in the same situation some day.*

► Did you like the sample sentences? Get the whole story in Anton Chekhov's "The Huntsman"!